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Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015

High -2°C/Low -4°C Snow



Syrian refugees Yaser Albakar and his family were welcomed by Premier Greg Selinger, Mayor Brian Bowman and others, Monday at Welcome Place. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

A WARM WINNIPEG WELCOME

(amid chilly temperatures)

The Albakar family
arrived Saturday after
living in a refugee
camp for two years

Time for snow-clearing review: Lukes

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Councillor says it may be time to change plow policy



Stephanie
Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

As crews near the end of a city-wide plow operation following last week's dump of snow, one councillor believes the time is right to examine how service can be improved for those on foot and two wheels.

Janice Lukes is inviting locals to give feedback on her website about the city's clearing of sidewalks and bike routes, which make up the city's active

transportation network.

"Changing a policy is not easy, but if it's for the betterment of mobility in our city then that's what we must do," she said Monday.

"We can't hibernate in the winter. We need to be active."

Lukes says although the city's policies around active transportation have evolved, there's been a dramatic in-

crease in people's desire to walk and bike year-round.

That's why she questions how conducive current snow removal standards are to active transportation during winter.

For example, she points to the fact that clearing of sidewalks and bike routes are tied to the priority level of adjacent streets.

"Is that correct? In some

cases, absolutely. In others, not so," she said.

Mark Cohoe, chair of advocacy group Bike Winnipeg, calls the policy car-centric and says it results in a "hit or miss" clearing of bike paths and unpredictability for cyclists.

Having a periodic review of the city's snow clearing policies as they relate to accessibility is critical, says Allen Mankewich,

spokesman for the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities.

"A lot of people tend to not go out as much in the winter if they do have mobility issues."

Lukes said the feedback collected would be discussed during a series of upcoming sessions, brought to experts, and the city's active transportation advisory committee.

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CRIME

Teen charged after two residential fires



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg fire crews responded to two separate fires Monday morning, the second of which led to arson charges for a 16-year-old boy.

Just before 10 a.m., emergency personnel were called to a four-storey building on Toronto Street where heavy black smoke billowed from a basement suite.

WFPS spokesperson Alissa Clark said crews used a “defensive strategy” to knock down the bulk of the fire before entering the building to extinguish the rest of the fire in the basement suite.

While emergency crews were at the property, the boy came forward and confessed to being responsible for the fire.

He was detained and

charged with numerous arson offenses.

All residents had evacuated before emergency services arrived, with the exception of a cat that was rescued unharmed and returned to its owner.

One resident was transported to the hospital in stable condition.

Damage is estimated at \$400,000.

The first call, just before 6 a.m., took firefighters to the Maples area, where a fire that originated in a portable garage set up between two homes ignited both.

Clark said fire had extended to the attic of both homes in the “well-involved” fire, but “crews were quickly able to bring fires in both residences under control.”

Both Hiddleston Crescent homes were extensively damaged, but no injuries were reported.



Left: A fire that started in a shed between two homes on Hiddleston Crescent damaged two homes. **Right:** A 16-year-old boy confessed to being responsible for an apartment fire on Toronto Street. **BRAEDEN JONES/METRO**

Business will help you Get Home Safe

DESIGNATED DRIVER

New company ‘getting calls every day now’

Evan Matthews
For Metro | Winnipeg

It’s not Uber, but Winnipeggers are being offered another solution to drinking and driving that doesn’t involve a cab or a bus.

Local entrepreneurs Alejandro Yero, Sandeep Khalsa, Sandeep Sidhu and Manny Singh have started a business called Get Home Safe Winnipeg.

All four men are part owners and drivers for the business.

“We’re basically a designated-driving company, similar to Operation Red Nose,” said Yero.

“You call us, book an appointment, and we drive you and your vehicle home.”

But Operation Red Nose is a seasonal non-profit, where as Get Home Safe Winnipeg is a year-round for-profit company.

If a vehicle used to transport people for hire, and is owned by a company — it needs to be licensed as a taxicab, according to Manitoba Public Insurance spokesperson, Brian Smiley.

But that isn’t how the new business works.



Alejandro Yero, Sandeep Sidhu and Deepu Khalsa are three of the entrepreneurs behind Get Home Safe Winnipeg. Unlike similar services, the company operates year-round. **CONTRIBUTED**



There is high demand, and we know what we’re doing.

Alejandro Yero

“We’re driving people’s vehicles, they own them,” Yero said.

“Instead of paying for a

taxi and leaving your vehicle, two of our guys show up. One drives you and your vehicle home, and the other follows in our vehicle to retrieve our driver.”

A company doing a similar service previously existed, according to Yero. Yero, Khalsa, Sidhu and Singh worked for the business, but the owners decided to shut down, as they were busy with full-time jobs.

“A few months later, we

were like, ‘Why not?’” said Yero. “There is high demand, and we know what we’re doing. We’re getting calls every day now.”

Yero said they receive between two and five calls a day, but on weekends it’s been between five and 10.

Rates can be viewed on their website.

The Manitoba Taxicab Board could not be reached for comment by deadline.

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Spike in produce prices upsets grocers

BUSINESS

Drop in value of loonie cited as one of the major factors

Evan Matthews
For Metro | Winnipeg

If you've noticed the price of some vegetables and fruits spiking more quickly and higher than ever this winter, you're not alone – and some grocers say they're not even bothering to bring in some vegetables due to the cost.

Iain Brynjolson, produce manager at Neechi Commons, said in 10 years of working as a produce manager he's never seen prices rise so fast.

"Prices have gradually been climbing, but I've never seen it go up across the board this quickly," said Brynjolson.

Brynjolson said there are two main reasons for the dramatic rise in cost, with the first being the drop in the value of the Canadian dollar to its lowest level since 2004.

"(The) majority of our fruits and vegetables come from the states during the winter months. There is a drought in California, so people are having to ration water and it's driving the cost up, too."

66

I've never seen it go up across the board this quickly.

Iain Brynjolson

He said while prices continue to soar, part of his job has become identifying staple items people gravitate to, and with Neechi Commons being located in one of the lowest income areas of Canada — often staple foods are associated with the cost.

"(The cost of) red potatoes are staying down, carrots are staying down, etc.," said Brynjolson. "It's important to identify items that people in the area are going to need."

Vanessa Meads, executive director of Winnipeg Food Share Co-op, said the non-profit organization hasn't been impacted yet.

The co-op distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to Winnipeg communities at an affordable price.

"We've always looked for the best fruits and vegetables with the best price," said Meads.

"But if the prices keep increasing and increasing, it makes it harder for us to fill the boxes with the healthy foods we provide people."

Brynjolson said he expects prices to drop in the spring, but the traditional price curve is steadily headed upward.

Prices at a few local grocery stores as of Monday afternoon.
THINKSTOCK

One mango
\$1.69-\$1.99

Green peppers
\$2.49 - \$2.99 a pound

Cauliflower
\$6.99-\$7.99 a head

IN BRIEF

Leopard cubs on TV

Four of Assiniboine Park Zoo's cutest kitties have made their TV debut.

Snow leopard cubs Yuki and Kang, with parents Batu and Henry James, have been featured in a commercial by Telus.

Filming took place inside the family's enclosures in August. The commercials are airing nationally.

The zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for Christmas Day.

METRO

Police arrest Zamboni driver for impaired driving

Police in rural Manitoba say impaired driving charges are pending against a Zamboni operator.

Officers received a complaint Saturday about the man during a minor hockey game in Ste. Anne, southeast of Winnipeg.

Marc Robichaud, chief of the town's police department, says the machine was striking the rink's boards and moving erratically around the ice.

An officer spoke with the driver between periods of the game, then placed him under arrest.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bothwell recalls products

Manitoba company Bothwell Cheese is recalling a number of their products due to the possible presence of listeria.

The company said Monday their shredded white, old, and mild cheddar, as well as their mozzarella blend, with a best before date of June 26, 2016, could be affected.

Those bags of shredded cheese should be returned to the store for a full refund.

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TRANSIT TUESDAY

Weekly Transit News Update



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- Friday, December 25
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- Friday, January 1

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Winnipeg Transit will continue to offer lower fares for seniors, qualifying students and Post-Secondary students.

Current transit fares are in effect until December 31, 2015 and 2015 bus tickets (plus applicable cash difference) will be accepted until March 31, 2016. For more fare information visit winnipegtransit.com or contact 311.

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Brian Pallister says he doesn't worry about short-term impressions and instead focuses on long-term results. STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

I'm capable, if not likable: Pallister

POLITICS

PC leader talks party as well as personal style



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Brian Pallister doesn't care if you like him; he just wants you to vote for him.

The Progressive Conservative leader came out swinging during a recent year-end interview, chiding the spending and leadership of Greg Selinger's New Democrats — not to mention the government's PST bump.

"The leader they care about is the one with integrity. The one they can trust. The one who has competence — like him or not, that's who they'll follow," said Pallister, 60.

Nominating the party's remaining candidates and hammering out a platform and financial plan are just a few of the items on Pallister's to-do list leading up to the election.

Part of that work includes differentiating the Tories from their role holding the government's feet to the fire as the Official Opposition, which Pallister admits has painted the party with a negative tone.

"Going to Manitobans and saying, 'Vote for me because



I'm not going to be happy smiley Pally.

Brian Pallister

they're so bad,' is really not in my nature," he said.

"I'm trying to get out there where we want to go," pointing to the recent mock throne speech he delivered several weeks ago.

But he's adamant that any attempt at a makeover stops at the political level.

"I'm not going to be happy smiley Pally 'cause that's just not my nature. I'm too focused to

be happy smiley Pally," he said.

From wishing "infidel atheists" a Merry Christmas to sharing his personal hatred of Halloween, some of Pallister's past comments have left Manitobans scratching their heads.

"Done thousands of interviews, right? I could have gone out with a prepared text every time and never even been quoted. Then you wouldn't have any idea who I am, what I stand for," he explained.

Pallister concedes that likability just isn't in his nature, which is somewhat of a "handicap."

"I don't concern myself so much with impression or reputation in the short term. I concern myself with results."



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Playing with fire

INFRASTRUCTURE

Reserves have inadequate protection

An internal federal government report says almost half the First Nations across Canada have "little to no fire protection" and rely too heavily on poorly trained volunteer firefighters who can't do the job.

The 2011 report examining insurance coverage for First Nations communities, obtained by The Canadian Press through Access to Information legislation, found only 56 per cent of First Nation sites across Canada have adequate fire protection — most because they depend on a neighbouring municipality.

British Columbia and Manitoba had the highest percentage of First Nation sites with little to no fire protection while First Nations in Atlantic Canada had the most sites with adequate

service.

"The number of fire-related deaths in First Nations is also a major concern," the consultant's report said. "The fire death rates in First Nations are substantially higher than those off reserve."

The report found that fire incidence rates for First Nations are 2.4 times higher than for the rest of Canada. First Nations residents are also 10 times more likely to die in a house fire.

Reserves rely too much on volunteers who aren't properly trained to protect homes that are dilapidated and not built to code, the government report found. There is a high attrition rate and volunteers don't "adequately serve the public interest," it added.

As the Liberal indigenous affairs critic, Carolyn Bennett called federal funding for fire protection services "appalling." Now as the indigenous affairs minister, Bennett said the re-



A burned-out house, in January 2011 in St. Theresa Point First Nation, Man.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/RCMP HANDOUT VIA MANITOBA LAW COURTS

port's findings are "not acceptable."

A spokesperson for the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada said the government takes issue with parts of its report. The report "does not provide a complete picture of fire protection coverage in First Nation communities today," said Michelle

Perron, in an emailed statement.

A reserve can have more than one site, some of which may not

have housing or infrastructure and "therefore no fire protection service," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The fire death rates in First Nations are substantially higher than those off reserve.

2011 federal report examining insurance coverage for First Nations communities

+ SAFETY

Grand Chief says lack of resources "appalling"

Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson, with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, which represents northern First Nations, said the lack of fire protection for First Nations would never be tolerated elsewhere in Canada. "It's appalling," North Wilson said. "Are we second, third-class citizens?"

On Wasagamack First Nation, a remote northern Manitoba reserve, a brand-new youth centre which hadn't even opened yet burned to the ground. Chief Sharon Mason said the volunteer fire department was only able to keep the fire from destroying the adjacent community hall.

It was the best the department could do with an ancient fire truck that still bears the name of a town in the United States.

"We need a proper fire hall. We need a truck that actually works," she said, adding the reserve can't afford to lose any homes because it is already struggling with a housing shortage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Spanking law to be revoked

SECTION 43

End in sight for 'reasonable' force against children

The Liberal government plans to repeal a section of the Criminal Code that protects parents — and teachers — who use spanking and other “reasonable” force against children.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised to implement all 94 recommendations

from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that investigated the dark history and ongoing legacy of the Indian residential school system. One of them was to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

“The commission believes that corporal punishment is a relic of a discredited past and has no place in Canadian schools or homes,” the TRC wrote in its final report released last week.

A spokesman for Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould confirmed Monday the federal government includes that recommendation in its overall pledge, but said it is too early to get into other details.

“The government is committed to implementing all of the 94 calls to action. However, at this point, we cannot speculate on potential legislative or policy approaches to address this issue,” spokesman Christian Girouard wrote in an email Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ PUNISHMENT

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the “spanking law” in 2004, ruling that physical force could be used by parents and schoolteachers on children between the ages of 2 and 12 years old.



IRAQI DEFENCE MINISTER KEEPS FOCUS ON TRAINING Canadian Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan writes in the visitors book before meeting with Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani on Monday. Sajjan toured the front lines in the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, meeting with Kurdish military commanders and Canadian special forces who repelled last week's major offensive west of Irbil. SAFIN HAMED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Online threats a growing concern for universities

Universities are being urged to put resources into monitoring online threats in light of a spate of incidents at North American institutions that intensified after the fatal mass shooting at an Oregon college in October.

William Taylor, president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, said many institutions south of the border now hire data-mining services to comb the Internet for concerning posts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians injured in Vegas

Two Quebecers remained in a Las Vegas hospital with critical head wounds on Monday after a woman struck them and more than 30 other people with her vehicle on a busy sidewalk along the city's famous casino strip. Sheriff Joe Lombardo said one person died and 35 people were injured after Sunday evening's incident, and he does not believe this was an act of terrorism. THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

New government could solve Hans Island feud: Expert

It's hard to imagine a less likely trigger point between two more unlikely combatants than rocky, chilly, empty Hans Island up near the top of the globe.

But as University of British Columbia political science professor Michael Byers ruefully ob-

serves: “Wars have been fought in the past over seemingly small things.”

He thinks Canada and Denmark will want to avoid such a rotten state of affairs.

What's more, he told Torstar News Service, current political

events provide a window — and this season of peace offers a powerful incentive — to melt at least some of the diplomatic iciness in the Arctic.

At a conference at the Danish school in November, Byers and his Danish colleague, Michael

Boss, put forward the Aarhus Declaration — which proposes that the dispute over Hans Island be resolved by creating a condominium of shared authority.

Byers said he has thought about such a plan for years, but “it didn't seem like something

the Harper government would likely seize upon.”

The new governments of Canada and Denmark “should both want to send positive signals about Arctic co-operation, about dispute settlement,” Byers said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Hans Island has been quietly creating tension between Canada and Denmark since 1973. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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China's year of disasters

SAFETY REGULATIONS

Four incidents spark outrage, demand for more oversight

China's year of man-made disasters began on New Year's Eve when 36 revelers were killed in a stampede in Shanghai. Four of the incidents in 2015 have prompted the government to pledge to improve industrial oversight and safety regulations:

1 Shanghai Stampede:

About 30 minutes before midnight on Dec. 31, 2014, people were jostling to climb a viewing platform next to the Pu river on the scenic Bund promenade when the stampede started. The crush killed 36 people and injured 49, blemishing the image of China's most prosperous and modern metropolis. Investigators found local police were unprepared to handle the size of the crowd, estimated at 300,000 people. The Communist Party boss, district police chief and a third local official in the Huang-



Chinese Paramilitary police in Shanghai. GETTY IMAGES

pu riverfront district were fired and disciplined for corruption.

2 Yangtze Sinking:

The Eastern Star cruise ship capsized in severe winds on the Yangtze River, causing China's worst shipwreck in more than 60 years. More than 440 people died in the June 1 disaster. Captain Zhang Shunwen was arrested after he was rescued from the river, with investigators looking into why he chose to sail into



Rescuers search for survivors in the Yangtze River. GETTY IMAGES

the storm instead of dropping anchor. A government agency in years prior had cited the ship for safety violations.

3 Tianjin Explosions:

A series of explosions at a chemical warehouse on Aug. 12 levelled a swath of the port city of Tianjin, killing 173 and injuring nearly 800. Investigators found that a company, Ruihai Logistics, illegally had stored the combustible chemicals within 1



Fire and smoke rises after explosions in Tianjin. GETTY IMAGES

kilometre of a residential area. The Communist Party's anti-graft watchdog placed the administrator of China's work safety regulator, Yang Dongliang, who had previously served as Tianjin vice mayor, under investigation.

4 Shenzhen Landslide:

A mountain of excavated soil and construction waste toppled after being soaked by heavy rains, hitting buildings in an industrial park in Shenzhen on



The aftermath of a landslide in Shenzhen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dec. 20. At least 85 people are missing, and an official microblog said survival possibilities in the collapsed buildings were small.

Some residents have blamed government negligence for allowing the giant debris pile to build up, while questions have been raised about the weaknesses of the factories and dormitories that crumbled under the landslide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH SCIENCE

Blood policies amended

The three-decade-old U.S. ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men was formally lifted Monday, but major restrictions will continue to limit who can donate.

The Food and Drug Administration said it is replacing the lifetime ban with a new policy barring donations from men who have had sex with a man in the previous year. While the one-year-ban has been criticized by activists it matches policies in other countries, including Australia, Japan and the U.K.

Gay rights activists said the new policy is a "step in the right direction," but falls short.

"It continues to stigmatize gay and bisexual men," said David Stacy, of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. gay rights group. "It simply cannot be justified in light of current scientific research and updated blood screening technology."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Astronauts execute surprise spacewalk

Two American astronauts helped move a stalled rail car back into place outside the International Space Station on Monday, quickly finishing the primary job of an unplanned spacewalk before moving on to other housekeeping tasks.

NASA's one-year spaceman, Scott Kelly, and astronaut Timothy Kopra took just a little more than a half-hour to release brake handles on the rail car and help guide it four inches (10 centimetres) back into place. The rail car needed to be moved so a cargo ship filled with nearly 3 tons of food and supplies could dock at the orbiting space lab on Wednesday.

"I see motion!" Kelly said after the astronauts released the brake handles and a robotics officer in Mission Control sent a command to move the rail car.

"Good news! It appears to have reached the work site," astronaut Mike Hopkins in Mission Control told the spacewalkers a short time later.

The spacewalk more than 250 miles (400 kilometres)

above Earth was just scheduled last Friday.

The rail car is part of the station's mobile transport system, which is normally used to transport people and equipment, including the station's big robot arm.

After engineers on the ground confirmed the rail car was latched in place, Hopkins told the spacewalkers, "It's in a good config. Well done!"

With their primary task completed, Kelly and Kopra split up to work on separate tasks of routing cables along the space station. Kopra also retrieved some tools stored on the side of the station for a future spacewalk.

Finished with their work, the astronauts returned inside the space station more than three hours after the start of their spacewalk.

Hopkins praised the astronauts for performing the spacewalk on such short notice.

"This is a team effort," Kelly said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Lindsay Graham drops out of presidential race

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday, saying he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people and helping the GOP expand its base.

The 60-year-old senator warned that the current GOP front-runner Donald Trump cannot defeat a Democrat like Hillary Clinton "without some major adjustments."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Six Americans dead in Taliban suicide bombing

A suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden motorcycle into a joint NATO-Afghan patrol Monday, killing six American troops in the deadliest attack on international forces since August. Two U.S. troops and an Afghan were wounded.

"Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families and friends of those affected in this tragic incident, especially during this holiday season," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William Shoffner, head of public affairs at NATO's Resolute Support base in Kabul.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BANGLADESH**

A court in Bangladesh's capital accepted murder charges Monday against 41 people including the owner of the Rana Plaza building that collapsed in 2013, killing more than 1,100 people in the country's worst industrial disaster.

Most of the victims were garment factory workers who made clothing for about 29 global brands, including Joe Fresh from Loblaw.

Investigators initially had said the accused would be charged with culpable homicide, but they shifted to the more severe charges after the investigation found that building owner Sohail Rana, his staff and the management of the five garment factories had forced workers to enter the building just before it collapsed even though the workers feared doing so because major cracks had developed in the structure a day earlier.

The maximum penalty for someone convicted of murder is a death sentence, while the maximum punishment for culpable homicide is seven years in jail.

The court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Al-Amin decided to go ahead with the trial after ac-

cepting the murder charges filed by police in June.

The police report called the deaths a "mass killing." About 2,500 people were injured in the disaster.

Rana and the owners of the five garment factories are among the 41 defendants accused of murder.

While Rana is in jail and 16 others are on bail, the magistrate issued arrest warrants against 24 others, said police prosecution wing officer Mohammad Asaduzzaman.

He said the police would take steps to arrest them. The court told police stations to submit updates on which arrests have been made when the court next hears the case on Jan. 27.

In a separate case, the accused also facing charges of violating safety rules in building Rana Plaza.

The original five-storey building was meant for office space and retail stores, but more floors were added illegally and transformed into factories.

The extremely low wages in Bangladesh led global brands and retailers to choose its garment industry over factories in China and other developing countries.

The building collapse triggered an uproar for reforms in a sector that helps the country earn about \$25 billion a year from exports, mainly to the U.S. and Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslims hide passengers from militants

Muslims in a bus in northern Kenya dressed non-Muslim passengers in Islamic garb to prevent extremists from identifying them for slaughter, witnesses said.

Two people died in the attacks in northern Mandera County when gunmen believed to be Somalia's al-Shabab rebels shot at a bus and truck headed for the town of Mandera, North Eastern Regional Co-ordinator Mohamud Saleh said.

Abdirahman Hussein, a 28-year-old teacher, said some of the Muslim passengers gave non-Muslims head scarves to conceal their identities.

An extremist entered the bus and ordered everyone to get out and form two separate groups of non-Muslims and Muslims, said Hussein. One person, a non-Muslim, decided to run and was shot in the back and died, he said.

A police official said a brave

Muslim man fooled the attackers by saying a truck full of police officers that was escorting bus was not far behind.

The officer said the lie about the escort prompted the extremists to order everyone back on the bus and told them to drive off. The extremists ambushed a truck on the same road and asked the driver whether he had seen a truck full of police officers, the officer said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3

Number of attacks on security forces carried out by al-Shabab militants last week. Last November, al-Shabab killed 28 non-Muslims on a bus, then the next month killed 36 non-Muslim quarry workers.

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Most were garment factory workers who made clothing for 29 global brands, including Joe Fresh from Loblaw.



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Realtors try virtual reality

REAL ESTATE

Canadian firm turns floor plans into 3D mockups

Overseas investors looking to park their money in Canadian real estate could soon be donning headsets and touring upcoming condo developments in virtual reality, according to the founder of a Toronto-based technology firm.

Invent Dev turns floor plans of new developments into 3D, immersive mockups that can be experienced in virtual reality, such as through the Oculus Rift system, or via the Samsung Gear VR headset.

David Payne, the company's founder and CEO, says he's been getting tremendous interest from the Chinese community.

"They are very excited about the potential," he said, noting that in the past week alone he has received three media

inquiries from Chinese news outlets.

The technology could help Canadian developers tap into global markets by allowing prospective buyers to tour a space without ever having to board a plane, he said. "They can now, from the comfort of their own home, view any floor plan that they want, with the finishes they want, and feel like they're actually inside that home," says Payne.

The technology can benefit developers in other ways as well, says Payne.

Rather than building model suites, Lifestyle Custom Homes employed Invent Dev's technology to create virtual reality mockups of its upcoming development in

PROPERTIES

Foreign investors are willing to buy condos without visiting them in person first.

Toronto's Leslieville neighbourhood — a significant cost saving for the company, says Payne.

While full-blown virtual reality — the kind that's experienced

through a headset — is relatively new in the Canadian real estate industry, a number of agents have been using other



Invent Dev founder David Payne says virtual reality technology could help Canadian developers tap into global markets. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE CANADIAN PRESS

technologies to create immersive experiences of homes.

Cameras such as the Matterport Pro 3D can scan an existing home and create a three-dimensional rendering of it that can be viewed through a simple web browser. A number of Toronto-based brokers with Sotheby's International Realty

Canada, which works with a large proportion of overseas buyers, started using the technology earlier this year.

Ara Mamourian says his brokerage, SpringRealty.ca, has been using online virtual tours for all of its listings since 2013. One of the things that prompted Mamourian to

start offering the service was a high number of calls from overseas buyers.

"They ... can essentially walk through the house and actually feel how big the rooms are, or how small the rooms are, without being fooled by that wide-angle lens," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FISHING

Thailand denies ignoring shrimp industry slavery

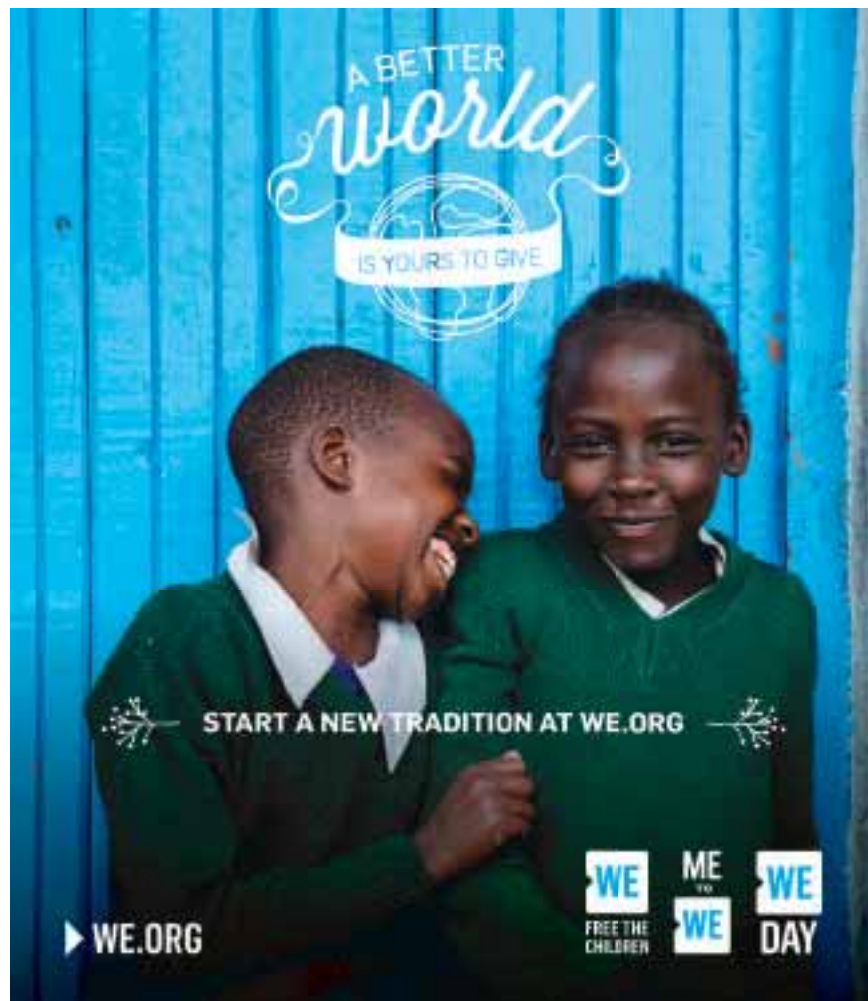
Thailand's government said Monday it is not ignoring the slavery and forced labour in its lucrative shrimp industry that was highlighted in an Associated Press investigation published last week.

At the news conference Monday, government officials did not deny the existence of forced labour but they disputed parts of the story, especially the AP's assertion that police took bribes and turned a blind eye to the practices in the industry.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

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TECHNOLOGY

B.C. startups threatening to disrupt 'dinosaur' industries

One technology startup is using artificial intelligence to save people who book online flights up to 80 per cent. Another helps farmers boost their crop yields with a mobile app that manages operations from seed to sale. A third aims to replace bank accounts with only a card and an app.

They're all part of a boom in digital-technology startups in Vancouver that are challenging old methods of doing business, and they're out to "disrupt" everything from travel to agriculture to financial services.

"You adapt or you die," said Ray Walia, CEO of Launch Academy, a non-profit firm that trains and mentors such startups. The organization has helped entrepreneurs start more than 350 companies, raising about \$57 million in funding and creating over 635 jobs across 15 industries. They include TripDelta, Farm At Hand and Koho.

Walia said employers outside the technology world must change the mindset that "bleeding-edge" advancements don't matter to their industries.



Ray Walia, CEO of Launch Academy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's those technology companies that are going to help those incumbents — those dinosaurs — stay alive."

66

You adapt or you die.

Ray Walia

The youth-propelled trend is also flourishing in the technology hubs of Toronto and Montreal.

About 84,000 British Columbians were employed by over 9,000 tech companies in 2014, according to the provincial Technology Ministry — more than in mining, forestry, and oil and gas combined.

Vancouver is home to more

than a dozen "incubator" facilities and "accelerator boot camps," which provide crash courses for early-stage companies on taking technology ideas to market.

Millennials are strongly represented, with many aspiring to hatch the next company valued at \$1 billion — broadly dubbed a "unicorn" in tech circles, or "narwhal" in Canada.

Hootsuite, Slack and Avigilon have already joined the Narwhal Club, while another 12 Vancouver companies are considered emerging.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EMMA TEITEL: ON A BEAUTY QUEEN'S BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Can you honestly say you remember last year's Miss Universe winner — or runner-up? I know I can't, because last year's pageant was a blunder-free affair.

If aliens crash land on earth tomorrow and demand to know what humans mean when they write #Fail, world leaders should provide them with a tape of Sunday night's Miss Universe pageant.

The now-viral event was more awkward than a thousand puberties because its host, comedian Steve Harvey, accidentally crowned the wrong beauty queen. Harvey misread his most important cue card and declared Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo, a.k.a. Miss Colombia, winner of the competition, when in fact she was first runner-up. When Gutierrez proceeded to bask in her newfound glory — the sparkly tiara already resting on her head — Harvey interjected to announce his mistake. The rightful recipient of the Miss Universe title was in fact, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, a.k.a. Miss Philippines, who, thoroughly confused, walked to centre stage where she was forced to claim her competitor's crown.

Nobody was a winner on Sunday, not Miss Colombia, who likely lived her worst nightmare, not Wurtzbach who was deprived of her shining moment, and certainly not Harvey, whose initial tweet apologizing for his error was itself rife with errors; he spelled both the Philippines and Colombia incorrectly. (Harvey, the author of a popular dating advice book, *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, should consider writing a new tome: "Read Everything Twice.") This year's Miss Universe pageant appears to be a lose-lose-lose situation; the sort of colossal public slip-up in which you feel deeply sorry for everyone involved.

But appearances can be deceiving — especially where beauty pageants are concerned. Take a step back from the cruel spectacle of the event, and Harvey's mistake,



Temporary tears The accidental crowning of Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo, above, may have been quickly followed by the sting of disappointment, but both the victorious Miss Universe and the hastily re-christened runner-up should be grateful for the publicity, Emma Teitel writes. GETTY IMAGES

unfortunate and awkward as it was, may actually be a blessing for the women affected. For starters, we know their names. Can you honestly say that you remember last year's Miss Universe winner — or runner-up? I know I can't because last year's pageant was a blunder-free affair. If the goal of the pageant contestant is to be crowned before an adoring audience and strut across a stage blowing kisses uninterrupted, then Gutierrez Arevalo and Wurtzbach have every reason to curl up in a ball and cry. But if their goal is lasting exposure and relevance on the world stage, they should rejoice.

Thanks to Harvey's epic mess-up they will be remembered! This is especially true

of Gutierrez Arevalo. Sure she was humiliated and dethroned on live television in front of millions of people, but had there been no mix-up and ensuing chaos she would be a complete unknown today — unable to command international media attention and (what will likely come in the following weeks and months) high profile party appearances, and speaking engagements. You can see it now, in lights: "The Girl Who Was Almost Queen."

This runner-up-as-star principle isn't exactly unprecedented. In 2010 Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga came extremely close to pitching a perfect game when umpire Jim Joyce — the Steve Harvey in this scenario — made

an incorrect call, ruling one of Galarraga's opponents safe on base when he was, in fact, out. Thanks to Joyce (who, like Harvey, apologized profusely for his bad call), Galarraga didn't get his perfect game. But he did get boatloads of respect and sympathy from media and baseball fans. In fact, the incident, known today as "the Imperfect Game" or the "Galarraga game" is remembered as an example of pitching genius and a spectacle of good sportsmanship (Galarraga was unusually gracious in the face of a terrible call).

It's hard to believe that Galarraga's game would stand out so distinctly today had he gotten his wish and pitched a perfect game. In fact, you could argue that more people know who he is precisely because he was the victim of a bad call. The same can be said about Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo who, thanks to Harvey's colossal mistake and the graciousness with which she gave up her crown, will not sink into obscurity. It's possible she'll be remembered longer than her competitor.

"No one remembers who came in second," said the golfer Walter Hagen. The quote is a favourite among "winners" — among them, surprise, surprise, Donald Trump. But perhaps it's time to amend the expression — or more specifically, to complete it. No one remembers who came in second, unless of course, they got royally screwed out of first.

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.



metroview

'Real change' under Trudeau doesn't even begin to cover it



Richard Gwyn

For roughly the next fortnight, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will have nothing more strenuous to do than enjoy himself with his family and utter occasional seasonal pleasantries.

He's more than earned this time off. For six weeks now, Trudeau has been going like a bat out of hell, or, more directly, like a politician convinced he should, and can, transform the country, and even to some extent the world itself.

His pace is unprecedented. The one parallel in our history is the commitment Lester Pearson made to start his tenure with "60 Days of Decision," or doing everything better than had his predecessor, John Diefenbaker.

His program came to an abrupt end when his finance minister, Walter Gordon, brought down a bungled budget he then had to withdraw. Thereafter Pearson moved cautiously, although he went on to introduce universal health care, the Canada Pension Plan, and our flag.

Trudeau has moved far faster. His single most important project would transform the relationship between native people and other Canadians by implementing the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and granting "nation-to-nation" status, near autonomy, to indigenous organizations, political and cultural.

Others are as ambitious. Canada's first-ever serious

commitment to climate change. An increase in taxes to generate more jobs for the middle class, but at the cost of increasing the deficit. A new electoral system.

And on and on. A new relationship between the provinces and the federal government. Withdrawing Canadian troops from the Middle East except as trainers well away from the front lines. Bringing 25,000 refugees from Syria.

Trudeau's phrase "real change" is inadequate. Only in the years after the Second World War, when Canadians first embraced the welfare state, has the country been challenged by so radical a political and cultural program.

Signs of stress have begun to appear. At the climate conference in Paris, Trudeau declared that on this issue Canada would exercise "a new leadership role." He was overdoing it by a wide margin. We're latecomers to the cause. We account for only 1.6 per cent of global emissions.

The sharpest stress comes from the economy. Finance Minister Bill Morneau has signalled the promise to hold the increased debt to \$10 billion over two years is out of date.

The sense that "Canada is back" hasn't changed. Trudeau should use the break to keep doing what he's doing, a good deal more slowly. He has a huge majority on his side. But if their jobs vanish or their salaries shrink, the loyalty of many will turn to themselves and their families.

Richard Gwyn is a Toronto Star columnist.

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Homework isn't what it used to be

Heavy backpacks are passé as kids' homework is increasingly completed online. It makes supporting a child's learning at home especially challenging for parents. Here are four teacher-recommended learning apps that will help kids to keep up — or maybe even get ahead. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Grade 8 student Asha Ibrahim, 13, left, reacts to getting a correct answer as she does her homework with Brainrush. Her cousin Hanan Hassan, 13, and also in Grade 8, middle, and sister Amina Ibrahim, 11, Grade 7 encourage her. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brainrush

Best age: All ages
Price: Free
App store rating: n/a (available at brainrush.com)



"Of all the apps I've used with my class, BrainRush is the best," says David Vaillancourt, a middle school teacher in Toronto. This platform allows teachers and students to play, create and share learning games. The use of "adaptive practice" ensures that students are challenged, but not overwhelmed. "Students look forward to using BrainRush, and the games' ability to adapt and respond to the individual student is a unique feature not available with a lot of ed-tech apps," Vaillancourt says. "Parents find it a valuable resource for learning at home and they can easily monitor their children's' progress."



DragonBox Algebra

Best age: Students 5 to 12 (and up)
Price: \$4.99
App store rating: 4½ stars out of 5

Brian Aspinall, a Grade 7 and 8 teacher in Chatham, Ont., recommends DragonBox Algebra as an engaging, problem-based method of helping students learn basic concepts such as variables and balancing equations. "I've been using this app for years and students really enjoy learning with it," he says.



Google slides

Best age: 7 years old
Price: Free
App store rating: 4½ out of 5

Traditional homework is often solitary and boring, but Google Slides changes all that. Students use the app to write journals, create digital books, solve math problems and create presentations. Their work can be easily shared with peers and teachers for immediate feedback. It's like a dynamic, interactive 21st-century diary.

Tools 4 Students

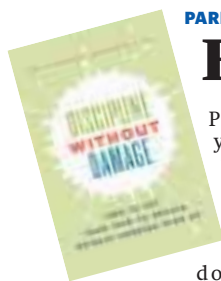
Best age: Students 5 to 14
Price: \$1.19
App store rating: Not yet rated



Jonathan So, a Grade 6 teacher, finds Tools 4 Students invaluable. The iPad app provides 25 different organizer templates to help students organize their thinking, take better notes, or prepare their thoughts before writing. So recommends Tools 4 Students for essays and research activities.

PARENTING

How to rewire kids brains to regulate their behaviour



Picture your kid misbehaving. As a parent — what do you do? Send them to their room, make them skip dinner... or offer them a reward if they cut it out, perhaps? You might want to rethink your methods, according to a new book from Vancouver-based psychologist Dr. Vanessa Lapointe. In *Discipline Without Damage: How to Get Your Kids to Behave Without Messing Them*

Up (out in January), the mother of two debunks some popular ways to discipline your kids and what parents should do instead.

In the book, you talk about common ways parents handle moments of acting out — things like time-outs, grounding kids, and offering rewards. What's wrong with long-engrained approaches?

First of all, we have to land at why those approaches have become so popular. It's because they afford instant gratification. When you give

a child a time out, you're going to have an immediate reaction — the child stopping their behaviour. Yes, you've got the behaviour to stop, but you've managed to stop it at a cost — it's out of fear. It's like going to the carnival and you play the whack-a-mole game; you've whacked it down, but it's going to pop up in another way, like another behaviour or frustration, because the child continues to have this unmet need for the parent to come alongside them. Frustration often morphs into aggression, either outwardly or inwardly

directed, which could mean self-loathing or self-harm.

So what's the better way to discipline kids, then?

The thing is, children are going to be children, based on how their brains are growing. Behaviours we look at as challenging are just a natural part of being a child. We need to come alongside and connect with them. The key to discipline without damage is to be disciplining through a relational connection with your child that meets them in their natural state.

You give one example of a mom calming down her daughter by taking her aside and explaining a situation to her calmly. It seems great, but how do parents achieve that in moments of stress and frustration?

Parents need to be in a regulated state to come alongside their children and be the regulator in that relationship. When you're looking in on a child who's engaged in some kind of challenging behaviour, you might see that behaviour as that of a child who needs to be schooled and put into

place. Instead of seeing your child as a brat, see them as someone who is having a hard time while their brain is really fired up. When you see them through those kinds of eyes, it invites a whole new kind of emotion. If you lived in my house, I'm not a rock star, and I'm not doing this perfectly all the time. There are days when I'm a hot mess! But no-one says you need to be perfect — you just need to do this enough times so your child's neural circuitry holds onto enough over time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Live-action brings energy



Undateable encourages live tweeting. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Undateable, season three, episode eight (City/NBC)
THE MOMENT: The Fourth Wall

Permanently single dude Danny (Chris D'Elia) just met Charlotte (Whitney Cummings) at his local watering hole, but already they feel a connection.

"I bet your sex life is like Nic Cage's movie career," she taunts him. "You'll do anything."

She stretches out her legs. He cracks wise about her having balls. She says one of them has to. "Careful," he says, holding back real laughter. "Don't get us cancelled" — here he looks straight into the camera — "twice."

The studio audience cackles on cue. This series joins a growing wave of live TV, as networks scramble to give people a reason to watch shows as they air.

The Sound of Music Live! and The Wiz Live! scored big in their broadcasts. Grease Live is set to air January 31. Tyler Perry re-

cently announced he'll host a live musical about Jesus, The Passion, this coming Palm Sunday. Undateable floundered in its first two seasons, but a live broadcast last May perked up ratings. Now every episode airs live, complete with musical guests who perform during breaks, live Tweeting encouraged (the actors' Twitter handles appear on screen) and much smashing of the fourth wall that usually divides the cast and audience.

In-jokes are big (Cummings and D'Elia costarred in her show, Whitney), as are stunt casting, winking at the audience, exaggerating any mishaps or missed lines, and hamming it up for the cheap seats. The cast seems to have a good time. But they should redirect some of that energy into the scripts.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Let it snow, let it shine

CAROLS

Study looks at lyrical tributes to weather in popular song

Holiday songs mention the heat nearly as often as they do the snow, according to a recent study by British meteorologists who combed through pop music lyrics looking for references to the weather.

"Perhaps surprisingly, in Christmas songs in our primary list the word 'cold' is used less than one might expect, but instead is implied through idealistic Christmas images of snow," the authors say.

Take Let It Snow, for example: "Oh the weather outside is frightful/But the fire is so delightful."

Many holiday songs feature some version of this contrast because they are written for an audience in the northern hemisphere, the researchers say.

The only exception they found was the upbeat Christmas countryfolk single Summer by Australia's Sunny Cowgirls, which describes barbecues, jet-skiing and "runnin' round with the sprinklers on."

Sally Brown and her co-authors from the universities of Oxford, Newcastle and Reading didn't only study Christmas-themed music; they found 759 weather songs in a karaoke database, from Good Day Sunshine to Blowin' in the Wind. (The majority of the weather songs, in fact, were by The Beatles or Bob Dylan.)

The researchers' aim was to investigate "how society portrays



The weather can act as a muse or metaphor. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

weather in music and the types of weather that inspire musicians." But they also just wanted to have a little fun, the lead author Sally Brown, a research fellow at the University of Southampton, told the Toronto Star.

It all started on a lark, she said. At a conference in 2012, the meteorologists played an icebreaker game where they listed off weather-related tunes: You Are the Sunshine of My Life, Walking on Sunshine, It's Raining Men — the list went on.

They had so much fun doing it that they continued in their spare time, between studying coastal geomorphology and experimental atmospheric physics,

Brown said.

Out of the 190 songs that had weather as a primary theme, sun and sunshine were the most common references, followed by rain.

The researchers say they may explore the subject further by studying music in other languages or focusing on certain genres. Whether they do or not, their experiment has already changed the way some of the authors listen to music.

"Last week, I was working away in a hotel and they had Christmas music and I was counting the weather references," Brown said. "It was Frosty the Snowman." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FINDINGS

Weather holds the key

Very often, the weather is used as a metaphor for love or a relationship, lead author Sally Brown, a research fellow at the University of Southampton noted.

Bus Stop by The Hollies, for example: "All that summer/We enjoyed it/Wind and rain and shine/That umbrella, we employed it/By August, she was mine."

For some songwriters, the weather seems to have acted as their muse. George Harrison apparently wrote Here Comes the Sun after leaving a business meeting in April 1969, on the first sunny day of the year after a particularly dreary winter, according to the study. Meteorological records show that that April was the sunniest month on record until 1984. When Harrison sang "It's been a long cold lonely winter," he may have been speaking literally.

They also found a correlation between certain weather references and the keys that a song is in. Mentioning the sun "significantly increases the probability" that a song is in a major key, while songs in minor or mixed keys are more likely to mention the rain. If a song in their database mentioned a rainbow, it was 100 per cent likely to be in a major key. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RECLAIMING YOUR SMILE

When it's time to consider dentures, the most important decision is whom will you trust to make well-fitting and natural looking dentures. Dr. George Cadigan, of Exclusively Dentures, has been a general dentist for 44 years and has now chosen to focus his practice exclusively on dentures. "If you are going to have dentures, it's

extremely important for you to have a qualified dentist perform a full oral examination. You want to know that your gums, your remaining teeth and all the structures in and around your head and neck are healthy," Cadigan says. "If they're not, then dentures are the least important part of what you need to have done."

Cadigan enjoys dentures and has chosen this alone for his practice. With an eye for aesthetics and a deep understanding of oral health, Cadigan and his team at Exclusively Dentures are committed to excellence.

"It's an art, and you can change someone's whole outlook on life when their dentures

look natural and beautiful," he says. "It's really rewarding making someone look great. When you look better you feel better. When you smile you are happier."

Exclusively Dentures provides patients with a start-to-end process that happens under one roof. Surprisingly, the Manitoba Dental Association fee-guide for general dentists is significantly lower than the Manitoba Denturists fee-guide.

Exclusively Dentures is located in Colony Square (500 Portage Ave.) on the second floor. For more information, please call (204) 999-8000. Heated underground parking is available off of Good Street.

Exclusively
D E N T U R E S

Dr. George Cadigan

204-999-8000

235 Colony Square | 500 Portage Avenue
exclusivelydentures@gmail.com

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PARTIAL DENTURES

SURGICAL IMMEDIATE DENTURES

IMPLANT SUPPORTED DENTURES

RELINES AND REPAIRS

SELF-CARE IMPORTANT DURING THE HOLIDAYS

We all know the holidays can be stressful, both to our minds and our bodies. That's why self-care is especially important during this busy time so you can fully enjoy the festivities and cheer. Wellington College of Remedial Massage Therapies Inc. (435 Berry St.) offers some tips on making the most of this holiday season, from principal Randy Ellingson and RMT and instructor, Sheila Bergman.

"See your massage therapist or visit our student clinic," they say. "Regular massage therapy is proven to reduce stress levels."

Many of us may feel that massage is an "extra," and while it can be a well-deserved bit of relaxation, it's also essential to keeping your body healthy. Registered massage therapists will work with you to help ease pain, boost circulation and provide rehabilitation for injuries. The Wellington College student clinic is a great choice for someone who works during the day, with evening appointments from 5 to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday. For a complete schedule, please visit wellingtoncollege.com/student-clinic. The other side of the coin is getting your body in motion.

"Engage in regular physical activity,"



ISTOCK

Ellingson and Bergman say. "It improves mood, boosts energy and promotes sleep."

Getting enough rest is also essential during these fast-paced weeks, and lastly, a balanced diet is important to keep in mind, even with plenty of desserts available.

"A good diet helps promote good mental function and enhances memory," they say. Eat right so you can remember who's on your nice list.

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The Boston Red Sox will retire Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs' No. 26 during a ceremony at Fenway Park on May 26

Herdman urges players to learn from the pain

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Coach tells his team World Cup heartbreak a growth lesson

John Herdman doesn't want his players to forget their World Cup pain.

The Canadian women's national team was left bitterly disappointed this summer after crashing out of a tournament the hosts felt was there for the taking, losing 2-1 to England in a heartbreaking quarter-final.

Six months later and with preparations well underway for 2016 Olympic qualifying, Canada's head coach hasn't sensed a World Cup hangover, but rather a renewed belief.

"I don't think you move past something like that," said Herdman. "You have to move through those things. You have to reframe. You have to look at the things that worked well for us that we were really happy about. And you have to look at other aspects where we need to grow."

With that in mind, Canada just wrapped up a four-team event over the weekend in Brazil that saw the squad finish second after losing the final 3-1 to the hosts.

Herdman brought a mixture of youth and experience to South America following a training camp in Vancouver, with teenagers Kennedy Faulknor (16), Deanne Rose (16), Gabrielle Carle (17) and Marie Levasseur



John Herdman high-fives fans prior to the start of the FIFA Women's World Cup quarter-final match between England and Canada in June. RICH KAM/GETTY IMAGES

(18) all making their full international debuts.

"What stood out was the performances of the team in some of the games where you really did get to see the quality that we could have moving forward," Herdman said in a telephone interview from Brazil. "The senior players have cultivated a culture where these kids can come in and really play in all phases." Speed and scoring were

"You have to move through those things. You have to reframe."

John Herdman

among the areas where Canada was lacking at the World Cup. Herdman is hopeful that

some of the new blood will help.

"I think the team is comfortable that we've got strategy and structure down," he said. "It's now bringing that alive — that winning mindset and just leaving everything out on the pitch every time."

Canadian captain Christine Sinclair was among the veterans who made the trip to Brazil and said it was encouraging to see some of the younger players

fulfil roles with another camp set for next month ahead of CONCACAF Olympic qualifying in February.

"Qualifying is always a stressful time, not going to lie," she said. "It always comes down to one game. You win, you're in. You lose, you're out. Football's a funny game sometimes. I've been on both sides of those games. You can't take any of these teams lightly." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Thorpe staying with Als after resignation nixed

Noel Thorpe will stay on as defensive co-ordinator and assistant head coach of the Montreal Alouettes.

The CFL club confirmed Monday that Thorpe will be back for the 2016 campaign.

Reports last week said Thorpe, who had two years left on his contract, had resigned and was looking to sign with the Edmonton Eskimos.

That prompted league commissioner Jeffrey Orridge to ban coaches moving from one team another without his written approval. The Alouettes gave Thorpe the choice to remain in his job or not coach anywhere in the CFL, but insisted he would be welcome to stay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Varlamov's sparkling net work earns first star

Colorado Avalanche goaltender Semyon Varlamov, Washington Capitals right-wing T.J. Oshie and Minnesota Wild centre Mikko Koivu have been named the NHL three stars of the week.

Varlamov was named first star after posting a 3-0-0 record with a 0.67 goals-against average, .981 save percentage and one shutout to help the Avalanche extend their winning streak to five games.

His week was highlighted by a 3-0 win over Chicago on Tuesday in which he stopped all 29 shots he faced, including 20 over the final two periods. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bruins Talbot suspended two games for hit to head

The NHL has suspended Boston Bruins forward Maxime Talbot two games without pay for his check to the head of New Jersey's Jiri Tlustý.

The check occurred at 14:30 of the second period of Boston's 2-1 win over the Devils on Sunday. After Tlustý cycled the puck into the Bruins corner, Talbot delivered a late hit that made contact with the Devils forward's head.

No penalty was called on the play, and Tlustý remained in the game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIFA

Blatter banned: 'I will fight until the end'

Banished from soccer's ruling body for eight years for unethical conduct, Sepp Blatter won't give up the presidency of his beloved FIFA without a fight.

"I will fight. I will fight until the end," Blatter said Monday at a news conference that started 90 minutes after he and former protege, vice-president Michel Platini, were each banned by FIFA's ethics

+ ELECTION

In two months 209 FIFA members will elect a new leader.

committee.

It was a stunning removal of world soccer's most powerful leaders over a \$2-million payment by FIFA to Platini, the

president of European soccer's ruling body UEFA. The payment is also the subject of a criminal investigation in Switzerland.

"I'm sad. It can't go on this way. It's not possible," said the 79-year-old Blatter, who has spent more than half his life working for soccer's scandal-hit governing body.

"After 40 years, it can't happen this way. I'm fighting to restore my rights."

Already serving a provisional ban, the elected FIFA president and Platini, his longtime likely successor were kicked out of the sport just two months before 209 member federations elect a new leader.

Their offences were judged to be conflict of interest and disloyalty to FIFA. They avoided life bans because corruption was not proven.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sepp Blatter

PATRICK B. KRAEMER/KEYSTONE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beckham slapped with one-game suspension

NFL

Giants receiver to miss crucial clash Sunday in Minnesota

Losing control during Sunday's loss to the Panthers will cost Giants star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. one game.

The NFL on Monday suspended Beckham for next weekend's visit to Minnesota for his conduct against Carolina, when he drew three personal foul penalties. The league cited "multiple violations of safety-related playing rules."

Beckham appealed the decision. His case will be heard by either James Thrash or Derrick Brooks, the hearing officers jointly appointed by the NFL and the players' union.

Without Beckham, the Giants (6-8) would be missing their best offensive weapon as they try to stay alive in the NFC East race.

Beckham and Panthers cornerback Josh Norman tangled from

the beginning of the Panthers' 38-35 victory. At one point, Beckham delivered a diving helmet-to-helmet hit on Norman while blocking.

There was plenty of pushing, shoving, swinging, wrestling, late hits and trash talking between them.

Beckham, the 2014 Offensive Rookie of the Year, has 91 catches for 1,396 yards and 13 touchdowns, tied for the league lead. He has a base salary of \$893,000 and would lose \$55,813 for being suspended for Sunday night's game at the Vikings.

The suspension was imposed by NFL vice-president of football operations Merton Hanks, who ruled that Beckham's actions placed his opponents at unnecessary risk of injury.

"At numerous times during (Sunday's) game against the Carolina Panthers, your actions placed a fellow player at unnecessary risk and clearly did not represent the high standards of sportsmanship expected," Hanks said in a letter to Beckham.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Giants receiver Odell Beckham Jr. stepped outside the rules on multiple occasions during his clash with Josh Norman and the Carolina Panthers on Sunday. JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Basketball under the Christmas tree

On Friday, after gifts are given and dinner is digested, somebody might watch an NBA game for the first time this season.

Christmas, with five nationally televised games, is when the NBA pops onto the radar for some sports fans.

If that's the case, they missed Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors put together the best start in league history, winning their first 24 games. They are 26-1 and appear even more potent than the team that beat Cleveland in June to win the championship.

"I said going into the year I think they're the prohibitive favourite, and I think that if you gave me the choice of picking either Golden State to win it or getting the rest of the field, I would take Golden State," said TV analyst Jeff Van Gundy. "I think they're that big a favourite."

Plenty more has happened. Kobe Bryant said this season would be his last, and Karl-Anthony Towns and Kristaps Porzingis have been terrific in their first.

The Eastern Conference has gotten better, except for the

+ SCHEDULE

Christmas Day

Pelicans at Heat, 12 p.m.*
Bulls at Thunder, 2:30 p.m.*
Cavs at Warriors, 5 p.m.*
Spurs at Rockets, 8 p.m.**
Clippers at Lakers, 10:30 p.m.**
(* = Sportsnet, ** = TSN)
All times eastern

Philadelphia 76ers, who have managed to look even worse.

The dominant story, and dominant team, has been Golden State. San Antonio isn't far behind, while Cleveland tops the East despite a bevy of injuries.

And though it feels like the season is just starting to some, the reality is all the winning the Warriors have done before could pay off much later.

"When you get out with the cushion like Golden State has, you can go through a bad stretch where maybe you take an injury to a really valuable piece and you're able to withstand it," Van Gundy said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg Jets Defenseman, #8 - Jacob Trouba ▶



AT HOME OR AWAY, GOOD HABITS GET RESULTS.

Jacob Trouba of the Winnipeg Jets and Recycle Everywhere want you to get into the habit of recycling all your empty beverage containers. Every aluminum can, carton, juice box and bottle has the potential to be turned into something useful. That's a much better result than sitting in a landfill.



RECIPE Tuscan Chicken Skillet Dinner



PHOTO: MAMA VISIONE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

• 1 tsp sugar

Directions

1. Pour the oil into a large skillet and warm to medium heat. Brown the chicken. You may have to work in batches. Remove from the pan and set aside. Drain all but about 1 or 2 Tbsp of fat.

2. Add the mushrooms, oregano and thyme to the pan and allow the mushrooms to become quite soft and brown. Remove them from the pan and set aside.

3. Add the onion and garlic and cook for about 3 minutes until they're soft and fragrant. Add the sugar, sun dried tomatoes, canned tomatoes and beans. Simmer for about 5 minutes, breaking up the tomatoes with the back of a spoon.

4. Gently tip in the chicken and mushrooms and simmer for another 10 minutes, until the meat is cooked through.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

With meat, veggies and legumes in a single recipe, you don't need anything else for dinner. And you won't miss the mess of more than one pan to clean!

Ready in

Prep time: 30 minutes

Serves 4

Ingredients

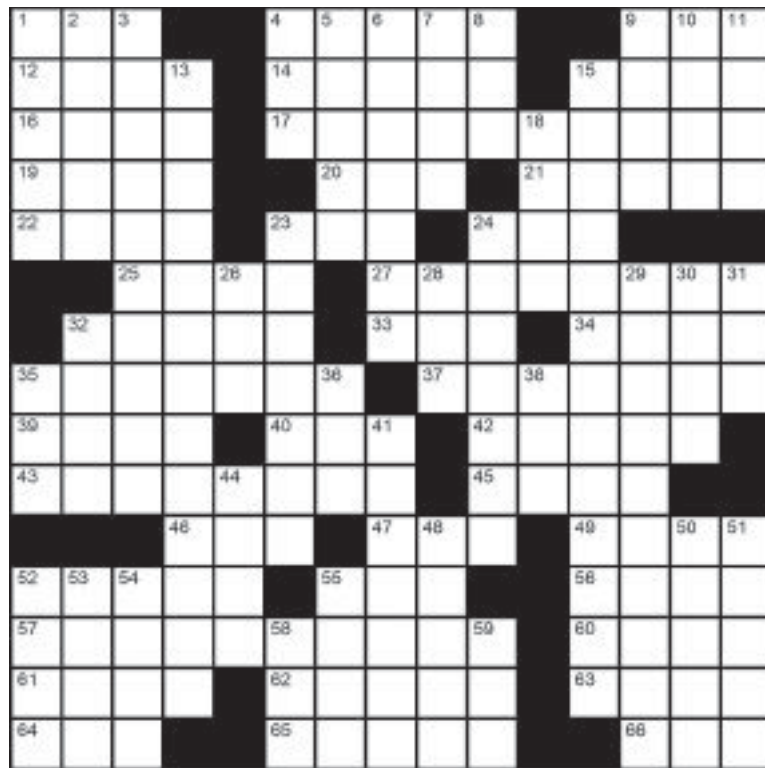
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb chicken breasts, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/4 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp thyme
- 1 1/2 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup sun dried tomatoes
- 14 oz can cannellini beans, drained
- 19 oz can tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp chili powder

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Puny planes posting
- Bing Crosby's Christmas medley duettist David
- Li'l hairstyles
- Cartography subj.
- 'Pine' is a popular one at Christmas
- Hourly pay
- Tech sch. grad
- Sporty character voiced by Canadian actor Paul Kligman in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": 2 wds.
- Roughly
- Realty database, commonly
- Beginning
- Genuine
- Comprehend
- Towels holder
- Houston ML-Ber, to fans
- "Up on the ___": Christmas tune that goes "Down through the chimney with lots of toys..."
- Burglar
- Lieutenant Tasha ___ ("Star Trek: The Next Generation" role)
- Ploy
- "Gimme Little Sign": 1967 hit for ___ Wood
- Ritzly spice
- Tennis great Bjorn
- Egg mass
- Clods
- Treats left for Santa
- Lounge around



- Ctrl, Shift, ___
- Long river in Scotland
- Jeans tops
- "Let ___ Be Peace on Earth"
- ___ Mahal
- Stagnate
- "We Three Kings of Orient Are"... "Field

- and fountain, moor and mountain / Following ___
- Change position
- Seal herds
- Buy
- By any chance
- Photo ___ (PR events)

- Groups, briefly
- Cousin of -ette
- DOWN
- Spew
- Opera voice
- People like Yukon Cornelius when travelling: 2 wds.
- Grad letters

- "___, All Ye Faithful"
- Rich
- Bus. name abbreviations
- Ordinal suffix
- Beaver creations
- S-shaped moulding
- Cobblestone

- Holiday things sent/received: 2 wds.
- "It's the Most ___ of the Year": Classic tune on #48-Down
- Dove murmurs
- "Don't hold back!": 3 wds.
- In a country style
- Soak flax
- '_' in Ornament
- Bird in "The Twelve Days of Christmas": 2 wds.
- Bears, in Barcelona
- Write
- Deanna ___ (Counselor on "Star Trek: The Next Generation")
- "Start With Trust" is this org.'s slogan
- "___ so fast!"
- ___ Fighters (Rock band)
- Mansion settings
- Peter Fonda title role
- Current festive album produced by Bob Rock: '___ Arden Christmas'
- North Pole toy-shop workers
- Soothsayers
- 'Winter' as Winter
- Basketball net
- Halts
- Tea stirrers [abbr.]
- Cape Town's home [acronym]
- Li'l streets

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are on your way up in the world. The Sun's move into the career area of your chart means if you have a plan and if you make the effort there is nothing you cannot accomplish.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The Sun's change of signs endows you with almost limitless confidence. But try not to take life too seriously. Make a point of seeing the funny side of everything that happens.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The week will bring to light something you have been trying to hide from yourself. If you want to get over it now is the time to face up to your demons. They are not as terrifying as you imagine.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Get over any embarrassment you might feel at revealing your innermost feelings. Even if you are the kind of Cancerian who keeps your emotions in check you will want to share what is in your heart.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Anything you begin will have the stamp of success on it, so long as you start slowly and don't take silly risks. You have big ambitions but you still need to take care of your health.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, making this one of the best times of the year for getting things done. Have a plan and pace yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
As from today you will feel a lot more positive about what kind of person you are and what kind of things you should be doing in your life. If you feel yourself pulled in a new direction don't let others talk you out of it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll let others know what you think and feel today. However, that does not mean you should tell them everything about yourself. It could give rivals information to use against you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The efforts and sacrifices you've made recently have not been in vain, and your financial situation will improve by the end of the week. Don't rely on promises — get cash in hand.

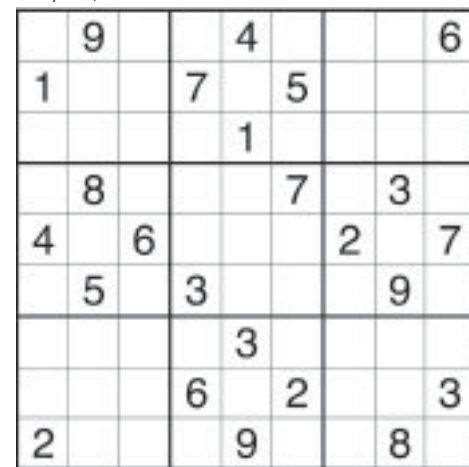
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you focus your energy in a single direction you'll achieve something amazing. There can be no more doubts or wondering if you are making the right moves. Choose a path.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You're about to get yet another opportunity to overcome a fear and you must take it. Stop worrying about life and start living it and enjoying it. There are so many good things in the world.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone you meet on your travels will become a good friend and also a partner who can assist with the big projects you've got lined up. Your needs and theirs are closely related.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



metro

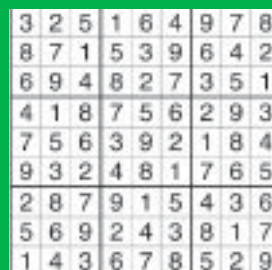
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